

ABSTRACT

In accordance with the teachings described herein, systems and methods are provided for transmitting audio via the serial data port of a hearing instrument. At least one hearing instrument microphone may be used for receiving an audio input signal. A sound processor may
5 be used for processing the audio input signal to compensate for a hearing impairment and generate a processed audio signal. At least one hearing instrument receiver may be used for converting the processed audio signal into an audio output signal. A serial data port may be used to couple the hearing instrument to an external device in order to transmit bi-directional audio signals between the hearing instrument and the external device. The serial data port may be
10 coupled to the external device to transmit at least one of the audio input signal, the processed audio signal and the audio output signal to the external device. In addition, a selection circuitry may be used to select at least one of the audio input signal, the processed audio signal and the audio output signal for transmission to the external device via the serial data port.